

Utilize a Livestock/forage Management Plan for Entire Year, as Opposed to Just the Grazing Season

Definition

This enhancement makes pasture management a year around activity for managing forage supplies, extending the grazing season, and improving pasture condition.

Purpose

To improve forage management, health and vigor through timely application of management strategies. This will improve overall pasture condition which will increase infiltration of rainfall and reduce runoff.

Where Used

Used with Prescribed Grazing systems.

Operation and Maintenance

- March:** Monitor lots and pastures for damage.
Frost seed.
Distribute manure and waste feed.
Plan new paddocks.
- April:** Monitor winter injury to forages.
Repair fences, water pipelines and watering facilities.
Move livestock rapidly if pastures are dry.
Develop sacrificial areas if pastures are wet.
- May:** Monitor forage growth.
Seed new pastures or renovate.
Fertilize.
- June:** Evaluate forage growth rate. Decide if hay should be made.
Clip if needed.
Monitor forage growth weekly.
- July:** Monitor forage growth weekly.
Monitor animal condition.
Control weeds.
Start fall stockpile, if desired.
- August:** Adjust livestock movement to forage supply.
Consider other grazing options, such as second crop hayfields.
Supplemental feed as necessary.
- September:** Monitor forage residual stubble heights.
Fall fertilization and seeding.
Select paddocks for extended fall rest (up to 20% of pasture).
Monitor forage condition and regrowth.
Supplemental feed as required.

Conservation Security Program Enhancement Job Sheets

Grazing Management Enhancements

Minnesota, 2005

- October:** Select and set up overwintering site.
Tend to watering equipment.
- November:** Clean up excess forage on fall rested pastures (not less than 4 inch residual stubble height).
- December, January, February:**
Move winter feeding sites.
Avoid creating feedlot situations.
Evaluate past grazing season, and plan for next season.

Payment Rate

A payment for utilizing a plan the entire year.

Documentation Required

- Record locations where pastures require repair or renovation, record action taken to remediate problems.
- Record where, when, and what was seeded to improve forage stands, or to establish new stands.
- Document repairs to watering system and fences.
- Document the rate and location of manure application.
- Document the rate and location of application of commercial fertilizers.
- Document the rates and locations of pesticide application.
- Record amount of supplemental feeding done through the grazing season.
- Prepare a forage balance sheet for the full year, including grazable and machine harvested forages.
- Document the location of the winter feeding area.

Signature: _____ Date: _____